



STAFF REPORT

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

Date: January 16, 2020

From: Margaret Glomstad, Parks and Recreation Director

Subject: Update to the Parks and Recreation Department Mission Statement

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission update the Parks and Recreation Department Mission Statement.

BACKGROUND

The current Mission Statement of the Department is:

“Creating a better community in which to live and play through quality recreational environments, enriching opportunities, and empowering people.”

During the review process of the Parks Master Plan document, commissioners noticed that the current Mission Statement was incorrect grammatically since the recreational environments, enriching opportunities, and empowering people are not parallel in structure.

The Commission requested the item be placed on a future agenda to correct the Mission Statement. Staff asked Commissioners to send options to be included for discussion at the next Commission meeting.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Lee proposes the Mission Statement change to:

“Creating a better community by providing opportunities to enrichment, empowerment, and play.”

Commissioner Lee’s reasoning included that the phrase “in which to live and play” can be removed without changing the meaning. Since “Recreation” is in the name, “recreational” can be removed. She also suggested removing “quality” since that is a given.

Commissioner Matthews proposes the Mission Statement change to:

“To create a better community in which to live and play with diverse recreational environments, enriching programs, and opportunities for social connections.”

Commissioner Ardito noted that "empowering" can be either a verb or an adjective. If it is an adjective as in empowering people, then it is grammatically correct. If it is a verb, as in to empower someone, then the tenses are mixed and needs to be corrected.

Commissioner Lewis proposes the Mission Statement change to:

"Creating a better community in which to live and play by providing quality recreational environments and enriching opportunities."

Commissioner Lewis noted that the first half of the statement, through the word play, is good but the second half ("through . . . people") does not read well because the list after the word "through" is not grammatically correct in that the items listed are not consistent forms of speech. She also noted that the last phrase, "empowering people," is the one that creates the problem (because "environments" and "opportunities" are nouns while "empowering" is a verb) and while it is a desirable goal in general, it is not really what the Department does anyway. Commissioner Lewis supports eliminating "empowering people" but if the Commission prefer it remains, then it could be changed to "which empower people" or "and thereby empowering people."

Staff received no other suggestions from commissioners.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.